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TAGS: EALD, PREL, ECOM, EFIN, EIND, SP, CH
SUBJECT: CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS SPAIN

REF: MADRID 00072

1. SUMMARY: CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN QICHEN'S OFFICIAL VISIT ON FEBRUARY 25-26 TO MADRID FOCUSED ON ECONOMIC MATTERS. IT ENDED WITH THE SIGNING OF A MINOR CONSULAR TREATY AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE PRINCE OF ASTURIAS WILL VISIT CHINA BEFORE THE END OF 1991. POLITICAL RELATIONS WERE PRONOUNCED "EXCELLENT" AND THE GOC THANNED THE GOS FOR ITS ROLE FOLLOWING

THE LIFTING OF EC TRADE SANCTIONS. END SUMMARY.

IMPROVING GOC/GOS ECONOMIC RELATIONS

2. FOREIGN MINISTER ORDOÑEZ STATED AT THE AIRPORT ARRIVAL CEREMONY ON THE 26TH THAT THE VISIT'S FOCUS WAS BILATERAL COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS. THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMERCE, APOLONIO RUIZ LIGERO, LATER ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH TWO BILATERAL MIXED COMMISSIONS TOWARDS THE END OF 1991: THE FIRST, CONCERNING IMPROVEMENT OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS, WILL MEET IN MADRID; THE SECOND, TO COORDINATE BILATERAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION, WILL MEET IN BEIJING. MFA SOURCES STRESSED THAT THE GOS IS PROMOTING SEVERAL MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS. THE MOST IMPORTANT ARE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A \$442 MILLION PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX IN XINJIANG, A THERMAL PLANT CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, AND A TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM PROJECT. THE PROJECTS AND COMMERCIAL ACCORDS WOULD BE BASED ON A \$450 MILLION LINE OF CREDIT SPAIN GRANTED CHINA IN JANUARY (REFTEL).

3. OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED INCLUDED THE FINALIZATION OF A FINANCIAL PROTOCOL AND MOVING TO AN EQUILIBRIUM IN THE BILATERAL BALANCE OF TRADE. (SPAIN IMPORTED ABOUT \$794 MILLION OF CHINESE GOODS IN 1990, WHILE EXPORTING ONLY \$323 MILLION TO CHINA.) THE PRESS REPORTED THAT ANOTHER MAJOR PURPOSE FOR THE CHINESE MINISTER'S TRIP WAS TO ARRANGE THE FINAL DETAILS CONCERNING A VISIT OF EC BUSINESSMEN TO CHINA. QIAN QICHEN ALSO SOUGHT TO INCREASE BILATERAL CULTURAL, COMMERCIAL, AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES.

BILATERAL RELATIONS "EXCELLENT"

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4. DURING AN ADDRESS ON FEBRUARY 27, QIAN QICHEN SAID, "THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN HAS TAKEN A SENSITIVE AND PRAGMATIC ATTITUDE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH CHINA, AND FOR THIS WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE." BILATERAL CONTACTS INTENSIFIED FOLLOWING THE NOVEMBER VISIT TO PEKING BY FOREIGN MINISTER ORDOÑEZ, THE FIRST VISIT BY AN EC MINISTER FOLLOWING THE EC'S OCTOBER LIFTING OF TRADE SANCTIONS AGAINST CHINA. QIAN QICHEN ALSO DESCRIBED THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES THAT SHOULD DEFINE THE "COMPLETELY NEW" NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER: 1) EVERY NATION'S "LEGAL RIGHT TO TAKE PART IN THE SOLUTION OF WORLD PROBLEMS THROUGH CONSULTATION;" 2) THEIR "RIGHT TO ADOPT THEIR OWN SOCIAL, IDEOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC MODEL AND ROAD TO DEVELOPMENT;" 3) MUTUAL RESPECT OF EVERY NATION'S "SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY;" 4) THE IMPERATIVE MODIFICATION "OF THE UNJUST AND UNEQUAL INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY AND RECIPROCAL BENEFIT;" AND 5) NON-INTERVENTION IN A NATION'S DOMESTIC CONCERNS.

5. ON THE GOS SIDE, ORDOÑEZ DESCRIBED THE DISCUSSIONS WITH QIAN QICHEN AS "FRIENDLY AND EFFECTIVE" AND CHARACTERIZED THE ON-GOING GOS/GOC DIALOGUE AS "FREQUENT, DIRECT, FRIENDLY, EFFECTIVE, AND UNINTERRUPTED."

CHINESE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES: AN ISSUE NOT QUITE EVADED

6. GOS SPOKESPERSONS REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA WAS NOT DISCUSSED DURING OFFICIAL MEETINGS, INCLUDING THOSE WITH KING JUAN CARLOS, PRESIDENT FELIPE GONZALEZ, OR ORDOÑEZ. THE ISSUE DID SURFACE, HOWEVER, AT THE VERY END OF QIAN QICHEN'S APPEARANCE THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 26 BEFORE THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS AND FOREIGN POLICY, A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION. QICHEN'S RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE AUDIENCE (ON THE SUBJECT OF THE HARSHNESS OF SENTENCES IMPOSED) WAS TERSE AND WIDELY REPORTED THE NEXT DAY: "THERE ARE NO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN CHINA. . . ALL THE WORLD HAS THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS AND THIS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF LAW. HOWEVER, IF ONE VIOLATES THE CHINESE PENAL CODE, HE INCURS CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY." QICHEN STATED THAT MANY OF THOSE WHO LEFT CHINA FOLLOWING "THE

INCIDENT IN 1989" HAVE ALREADY RETURNED TO CHINA. HE FINISHED BY SAYING "THE INCIDENT OF '89 IS A CLOSED CASE."

CHINESE PERSPECTIVES ON THE GULF

7. DURING A FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE, QIAN QICHEN STATED THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 27 THAT THERE WERE TWO OBJECTIVES CONCERNING THE RESOLUTION OF THE GULF CRISIS: FIRST, TO ESTABLISH REGIONAL SECURITY, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THE PARTICIPATION OF "THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION," AND THAT "FOREIGN TROOPS . . . WITHDRAW FROM THE ARAB PENINSULA." THE

SECOND OBJECTIVE IS "TO SOLVE THE PALESTINE PROBLEM THROUGH AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UN AND IN WHICH ARE REPRESENTED THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL."

COMMENT

8. PART OF AN EIGHT-NATION TOUR, THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT WAS OVERSHADOWED BY THE CEASEFIRE AND OTHER EVENTS IN THE GULF.

United States Department of State
Office of FOI, Privacy, & Classification Review
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